

## Promoting Networks to Deliver Concrete Results

### Developing Critical Tools to Foster Progress in the Implementation Era

Community by community and country by country, governments, international organizations, business, NGOs, and others are partnering and collaborating through networks to turn international commitments into action. These networks share common goals and a vision on how they can work together to deliver concrete results.

These networks are not a substitute for domestic policies. Nor do they replace traditional bilateral assistance efforts or the far greater flows of resources that come from private sources. What they can do is bring together people and organizations that together can achieve more than if they had worked alone. Together they can leverage resources and expertise. Together they can build their capacity to deliver results by exchanging best practices and lessons learned. Together they can identify implementation gaps and develop new activities to fill them. Together they can become a focal point for those in need of assistance and those with an interest in offering support in areas of shared interest. Together they can develop the participatory and accountable processes that are the hallmarks of democracy and good governance. Over time, a family of networks and mechanisms is emerging that collectively offer a range of approaches to dealing with priority needs.

The two-year CSD cycle on water has already achieved several key goals: progress has been assessed, gaps identified, and policy options and case studies put forward that could advance implementation. In turn, a number of organizations – from both governments and civil society – have come forward to identify how they can contribute to implementation through mechanisms that can deliver concrete results on the ground.

#### CSD Implementation Cycle Galvanizes Action

Throughout this two-year CSD implementation cycle, the United States has worked with a number of partners to develop or strengthen networks or mechanisms that address the challenges before us. Examples include:

- **Working through the Global Water Partnership** to support the development and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management strategies in El Salvador, Ethiopia, and Indonesia. 15 other countries are receiving support through this mechanism in 2005.
- **Health through Water Partnership** to build political will and catalyze partnerships to reduce the incidence of water-related diseases. Partners include (but are not limited to) the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, and Australia.
- **Shared River Basin Initiative** to strengthen regional institutions for the joint management of shared water. Partners include: United States, the Netherlands, Sweden, the World Bank and the GEF. Activities underway in a number of basins including the Niger, Senegal, Nile, and Mekong.
- **Financing:** Working through an informal network of partners (including the UK, Japan, and the AfDB) to bring forward new approaches such as loan guarantees and pooled/revolving funds.

#### Beyond CSD-13

The next step is to consider how we can improve existing formal and informal processes to build our capacity to support these networks and create new ones.

There are three areas we should focus attention on:

- **Strengthening UN Water** to ensure UN interagency coordination on water and create opportunities for others to partner with UN initiatives.
- **Better use existing water-related fora** (such as Stockholm Water Week, regional development bank Water Weeks, the World Water Forum and regional meetings such as the African Ministers Council on Water) to advance implementation. Stockholm Water Week could focus on exchanging best practices and lessons learned as well as provide a forum for meetings of global partnerships. Regional meetings could focus on developing activities and advancing partnerships in those regions.
- **An evolving role for the CSD Secretariat.** The “Secretariat of Future” will need to focus more on disseminating knowledge and information – often obtained from other sources. UN DESA is uniquely positioned to assume this role.

See reverse for more information on U.S. actions to promote implementation

For further information, please visit the website of the U.S. Delegation to CSD-13, accessible via [www.sdp.gov](http://www.sdp.gov)

## 2004-2005 CSD Implementation Cycle – Water, Sanitation, and Human Settlements

### Selected Highlights of U.S. Actions to Promote Implementation

- **Water for the Poor Initiative:** To date, over 9.5 million people have better access to clean water and approximately 11.5 million people have access to adequate sanitation because of President Bush's U.S. Water for the Poor Initiative. Announced at WSSD in 2002, this program aims to improve fresh water management in over 70 developing countries. USAID is ahead of target to meet its commitment of providing \$970 million for the initiative over three years.
- **USAID Credit Guarantees:** Through the Development Credit Authority program, USAID has signed 126 agreements in 38 countries mobilizing over \$900 million in local capital for investment in agriculture, microfinance, small and medium enterprises and infrastructure projects around the world.
- **Global Development Alliance:** USAID's Global Development Alliance (GDA) mobilizes governments, business and civil society by forging public-private alliances to stimulate economic growth, address health and environmental issues, strengthen civil society and expand access to education and technology in the developing world. In two years, GDA has fostered over 290 partnerships with a total USG investment of \$1 billion. Alliance partners have contributed over \$3 billion in cash and in-kind donations.
- **Global Water Partnership:** The GWP works through a network of country water partnerships to engage government and civil society in national efforts to improve water management and develop IWRM plans. The U.S., one of several donor countries supporting this activity, provided funding to three country partnerships in response to interest expressed by stakeholders in El Salvador, Ethiopia, and Indonesia.
- **Partnership to Health through Water:** The *Partnership to Health through Water* is a global consortium of international organizations, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, action networks and research institutions working to reduce the incidence of water-related disease worldwide. The partnership aims to raise policy makers' awareness regarding the effective role of water-related interventions by generating data regarding the cost implications of water-related disease and strengthening technical capacity to design, implement, and evaluate water-related programs.
- **Shared River Basin Initiative:** UNDP's Shared River Basin Initiative aims to support regional dialogue and build political will among decision makers in developing countries to jointly address integrated management of shared rivers, as well as build capacity and provide support for legal mechanisms and associated institutions.
- **Education and Employment Alliance:** USAID recently provided an \$11 million start-up grant to the *Education and Employment Alliance*, a new partnership led by the International Youth Foundation (IYF). In Egypt, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan and the Philippines, this alliance will tap the innovation and resources of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to ensure young people receive the appropriate education and training to find gainful employment.
- **White Water to Blue Water Initiative:** White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) is an international alliance of governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, universities, and corporations supporting dynamic partnerships that promote sustainable environmental management within the Caribbean region. The first WW2BW conference in 2004 attracted over 700 participants, nurtured or formed more than 100 partnerships, and offered 32 training courses.
- **Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS):** GEOSS is an intergovernmental effort to achieve comprehensive, coordinated and sustained Earth observations for the benefit of humankind. Observing and understanding the Earth system more completely and increasing coordination of existing satellite- and ground-based water monitoring systems will yield advances in water resources management. The United States is a co-chair of this international effort, which is building on implementation in existing partnerships such as the Integrated Global Observing Strategy Partnership (IGOS-P) and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS).
- **Safe Water System:** Currently operational in 19 countries, with program launches expected in 6 additional countries this year, the Safe Water System uses local resources, public-private partnerships, and a market-based approach to improve the quality of drinking water at the household level. The Safe Water System has distributed or sold at low cost over 12 million bottles of disinfectant solution. Each bottle typically provides one household with enough treated water for drinking for up to two months.
- **Seed Initiative:** The Supporting Entrepreneurs for Environment and Development (Seed) initiative promotes partnerships through an international awards program, capacity-building activities, and a research and learning program. The inaugural class of Seed award winners will be announced during an April 20<sup>th</sup> reception during CSD-13. Each of the five Award winners will receive targeted capacity-building support services to help ensure their partnership's success.
- **SDP.gov:** In January 2004, the U.S. government launched [www.sdp.gov](http://www.sdp.gov), an Internet site that provides access to information on a range of partnerships launched or joined by the U.S. government.

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